

The present invention relates to a novel Neutrokin- $\alpha$ , and a splice variant thereof designated Neutrokin- $\alpha$ SV, polynucleotides and polypeptides which are members of the TNF family. In particular, isolated nucleic acid molecules are provided encoding the human Neutrokin- $\alpha$  and/or Neutrokin- $\alpha$ SV polypeptides, including soluble forms of the extracellular domain. Neutrokin- $\alpha$  and/or Neutrokin- $\alpha$ SV polypeptides are also provided as are vectors, host cells and recombinant methods for producing the same. The invention further relates to screening methods for identifying agonists and antagonists of Neutrokin- $\alpha$  and/or Neutrokin- $\alpha$ SV activity. Also provided are diagnostic methods for detecting immune system-related disorders and therapeutic methods for treating immune system-related disorders.